

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 180759Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7534

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINR KS

SUBJECT: SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS DEATH SENTENCE FOR MRS. PARK'S
ASSASSIN

1. ON DECEMBER 18, SUPREME COURT UPHELD DEATH SENTENCE
FOR MUN SE-KWANG, CONVICTED ASSASSIN OF FIRST LADY,
MRS. PARK CHUNG HEE. SENIOR JUSTICE HONG SUN-YOP
RULED CAPITAL SENTENCE WAS NOT EXCESSIVE IN THAT MUN'S
CRIMES (VIOLATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY LAW, ATTEMPTED
HOMICIDE ETC.) RESULTED IN DEATH OF PRESIDENT'S WIFE.
BY LAW, JUSTICE MINISTER MUST SIGN EXECUTION ORDER
WITHIN SIX MONTHS AND SENTENCE MUST BE CARRIED OUT FIVE
DAYS FROM SIGNING. MUN COULD LEGALLY REQUEST ANOTHER
REVIEW OF CASE BY SUPREME COURT BUT COURT SOURCES SAY HIS LAWYER
HAS ALL BUT RULED THAT OUT. HE MAY ALSO PETITION PRESIDENT
PARK FOR CLEMENCY.

2. KOREAN LEGAL CIRCLES BELIEVE SENTENCE WILL BE
CARRIED OUT BEFORE END OF YEAR. CLEMENCY BY PRESIDENT
IS CONSIDERED POSSIBLE BUT HIGHLY UNLIKELY. POPULAR
SUPPORT FOR MUN EVEN AMONG ANTI-PARK FACTIONS IS
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VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN PERSONAL NATURE OF CRIME PRISIDENT
CONCEIVABLY COULD MAKE SOME SPECIAL EXPRESSION OF MAGNANIMITY BY
CHANGING SENTENCE TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT. ALSO, MUN,
ALIVE, MIGHT BE VALUABLE LATER ON IN SOME ANTI-NORTH
KOREAN PROPAGANDA EXERCISE.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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